

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 29 with the following amended paragraph:

A description of suitable needled and stretched, hook-engageable non-woven materials is found in ~~pending~~ U.S. Patent ~~Application 08/922,292~~ 6,342,285, filed 9/3/97 entitled "Fastener Loop Material, Its Manufacture, and Products Incorporating the Material", and a related ~~pending Continuation-in-Part Application 09/262,159~~ U.S. Patent 6,329,016, filed 3/3/99 entitled "Loop Material for Touch Fastening", the entire contents of both of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

The method of producing the side-by-side preform tab of Fig. 22A employs the same basic principles of that described above with reference to Fig. 14C. However, the addition of the backing web, eliminates the need to provide extruded molten material over the entire width of the forming nip. Instead, the exposed surface of the tip portion 902 and the fastener elements of the fastener element-bearing portion 904 are formed as bands of molten material introduced into the nip simultaneously with the backing material 908. Such a technique of in-situ laminating and molding bands or islands of material to an initially separate, second material is discussed in greater detail in co-pending US Application No.                     09/808,395, filed March 14, 2001 and entitled "Hook and Loop Fastening", the entire contents of which is hereby incorporated by reference.